THE RUBBER STEALING PREVENTION BILL.

Mr. Richardson.—Sir, I beg to apply for permission to introduce, at the next Meeting of the Council, a Bill to provide for the prevention of rubber-stealing.

Permission was granted accordingly.

THE BREACH OF CONTRACT REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Ananda Row.—Sir, the Breach of Contract Regulation Amendment Bill, which I introduce to-day, is a very simple affair. The amendment proposed, as you already know from the Bill published in the Gazette, relates to Section 3. The necessity for the amendment is not far to seek. The existing Regulation is meant to help masters or employers who, in connection with their trade or business, have to deal constantly with artificers, workmen and labourers. That being so, you will at once see that the amendment proposed is nothing but desirable. In the ordinary course of dealing with the artificers, workmen or labourers, by their employers, advances will and must have to be made, and they may be in cash or in kind. The Regulation, as it now exists, contemplates only advances in cash, as has been judicially construed. But the labourers, artificers and workmen do often require advances in kind as well. And the employers cannot but accede to these requirements in the interest of these men. If, after such advances made on the request and requirement of these men, the employers are debarred from recovering the same as provided by the Regulation, the object of the Regulation becomes more or less frustrated. It is to avoid this sad state of affairs that the present amendment is proposed, and I commend the Amendment Bill to your consideration.

Mr. Madhavan Tampi.—Sir, I submit that I cannot agree to the principle of the Bill, as the effect of the proposed law will be to place the workmen in a state of perpetual bondage in the hands of unscrupulous employers.

Mr. Sri Narayanan Tampi was also against the affirmation of the principle of the Bill. The motion that the principle of the Bill be affirmed was put to the vote and was carried by a majority.

Mr. Ananda Row then proposed that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, consisting of Mr. Vieyra, Mr. Kesava Pillai and the Mover, to report within one month.

Seconded by Mr. Krishnan Nair.

Carried.

THE STAMP REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Ananda Row.—Sir, the Amendment Bill has been published in the Gazette. The Statement of Objects and Reasons explains fully the necessity for the Bill. I have nothing to add to what I have already stated therein. I beg to move that the principle of the Bill be affirmed.

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

Carried.

Mr. Ananda Row then proposed that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, consisting of Mr. Vieyra, Mr. Kesava Pillai and the Mover, to report within one month.

Seconded by Mr. Subrahmania Iyer.

Carried.

THE REVENUE RECOVERY REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Ananda Row.—The Revenue Recovery Regulation Amendment Bill, which I introduce to-day, relates only to the first para of Section 51 of the existing Regulation, I of 1068. It has been recently judicially construed that the six-months

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eriod of limitation prescribed by the Section for institution of suits in Civil Courts pplies only to cases where the sale of property was admittedly had for arrears of evenue *really* and *in fact* due, and not to cases where the aggrieved party alleges his plaint that there were no arrears of revenue. In the latter cases, it is stated at the period of limitation is that prescribed in the Limitation Regulation. The wording of the Section, therefore, if allowed to stand as it is, would seriously affect the operation of the Revenue Recovery Regulation. The object of the Section is two-fold, *viz.*, (1) to give the aggrieved party a redress by a full and regular trial in a civil suit, and (2) to secure the title of the auction purchaser to the property, by limiting the period to six months, during which title to the property purchased shall remain unsettled and subject to question by the institution of a civil suit. In the light of the construction put upon the present Section, the second of the two objects cannot be duly fulfilled. For, it frequently happens that a suit for setting aside an auction sale held under the Revenue Recovery Regulation, is based on the ground that arrears of revenue for which the auction sale was held did not really exist. In such cases, under the present ruling, it is open to the aggrieved party to bring his suit within the statutory period prescribed in the Limitation Regulation, *viz*, twelve years— too long a time for any purchaser to wait. This will, to my mind, have a deterrent effect upon intending purchasers in revenue auction, and will eventually affect not only revenue sales but also the owners of the properties, in as much as they are not likely to obtain good or even fair prices for their properties, and lastly, it is very likely to encourage speculation in litigation. The amendment proposed, which is quite harmless in itself, will prove an effective remedy. For these reasons, I beg to move for the principle of the Bill being affirmed.

Seconded by Mr. Raman Pillai.

Carried.

Mr. Ananda Row then proposed that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, consisting of Mr. Vieyra, Mr. Kesava Pillai and the Mover, to report within ne month.

Seconded by Mr. Sri. Narayanan Tampi.

Carried.

THE COURT FEES BILL.

In view of the importance of the measure, the general sense of the meeting as that the Bill should be referred back to a Select Committee.

Resolved accordingly that the Bill be recommitted to a Select Committee, onsisting of Mr. Krishnan Nair, Mr. Kesava Pillai and the Mover, to report within ree months.

CIVIL PROCEDURE CODE AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Ananda Row.—Sir, before the Council takes up the next item of business in the agenda, I beg permission to introduce a Bill to amend the Civil Procedure Code. The amendment proposed does not affect any main principle of law and only aims at greater convenience in the disposal of work. It is an amendment which will bring our Code in consonance with the British Indian Civil Procedure Code, in the matter of writing judgments. As the Bill is but a simple measure, I beg to move, under Section 66 of the Legislative Council Rules, that the operation of the said Rules be suspended, so that the Bill may go through all the stages—except final reading—at this Meeting.

Second by Mr. Vieyra.

Carried.

Mr. Ananda Row.—I propose that the Bill be read again on a future day of which notice shall be given.

Seconded by Mr. Subrahmania Iyer.

Carried.

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